



Representing faculty  
and classified workers in  
public and private schools  
and colleges, from early  
childhood through higher  
education

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American Federation of  
Teachers, AFL-CIO

June 16, 2015

Mr. Ken Topping, Chair  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning Commission  
976 Osos Street, Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

**RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion Project**

Dear Chairperson Topping and Members of the Planning Commission:

The California Federation of Teachers is writing to state our opposition to the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. The California Federation of Teachers is particularly concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic generated by this project through many densely populated areas in California, and the risk it poses to schools and colleges along the rail route.

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) involves accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the state, not to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. Additionally, many schools and colleges are within the one-mile US Department of Transportation Potential Impact Zone **which is the minimum distance required** in the event of an oil train derailment or fire.

The RDEIR also did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area, which includes oil transport through California to the San Luis Obispo County facility. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, especially in the very young. Therefore, this project would directly compromise the health and safety of our school communities along the rail route.

On June 14, 2015, the California Federation of Teachers voted to oppose the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion Project and to respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,

Joshua Pechthalt  
President  
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California Federation  
of Teachers

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Mrs. Ryan Hostetter, Senior Planner  
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Address correction requested

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